

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Original Claims 1-72 have been canceled. New Claims 73-82 have been added and are currently pending in this divisional application.

**Amendments: Lack of New Matter**

Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter into the divisional present application. The basis for each amendment is discussed in detail herein below.

The paragraph inserted into the specification before the first paragraph is a statement of priority claim only.

The amendment to the paragraph starting on page 5 removes speculation about the mechanism of heat-induced deterioration of polymers. The amended paragraph uses the same language describing the heat-induced deterioration of polymers as used elsewhere in the application, for example at page 1, lines 9-10, and page 1, line 17.

The changes to the paragraph on page 79 of the specification to correct an obvious typographical error: the formulation labeled "Ludwig" is clearly a Comparative and not an Example of the present invention.

The subject matter recited in new independent claims 73 and 79 is based on descriptions found in the specification, as noted in detail as follows:

- The polymer component of new claim 73(a) is described, for example, on page 1, lines 9-10.
- The blocked mercaptan recited in new claim 73(b) and in new claim 79(a) is described, for example, from page 6, line 2 through page 7, line 10.

- The degradation of blocked mercaptan recited in new claim 73(b) is described, for example, on page 2, lines 2-4.
- The organotin compounds recited in new claims 73(c), 73(d), 79(b), and 79(c) are described, for example, on page 27, lines 19-27.

The subject matter of each of the new dependent claims is disclosed as follows:

- The amounts of ingredients recited in new claim 74 is described, for example, on page 43, lines 31-36.
- The compositions recited in new claims 75 and 76 are choices from among the choices listed in new claim 73.
- The polymers recited in new claims 77 and 78 are described, for example, on page 2, lines 10-14.
- The amount of latent mercaptan recited in new claim 80 is described, for example, on page 27, lines 18-19.
- The compositions recited in new claims 81 and 82 are choices from among the choices listed in new claim 79.

### Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the foregoing amendments at this time. If there any issues that the Examiner believes can be resolved by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned agent.

A filing fee of \$750 is believed to be due in connection with the filing of the present divisional application, which accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. The aforesaid \$750 fee is addressed by the completed Fee Transmittal form enclosed herewith. No additional fees are believed to be

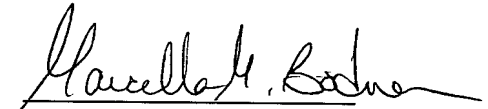
Appl. No. not yet assigned  
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due. If, however, any such fees, including petition or extension fees, are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them, as well as to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 18-1850.

Date: September 8, 2003  
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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcella M. Bodner", written over a horizontal line.

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